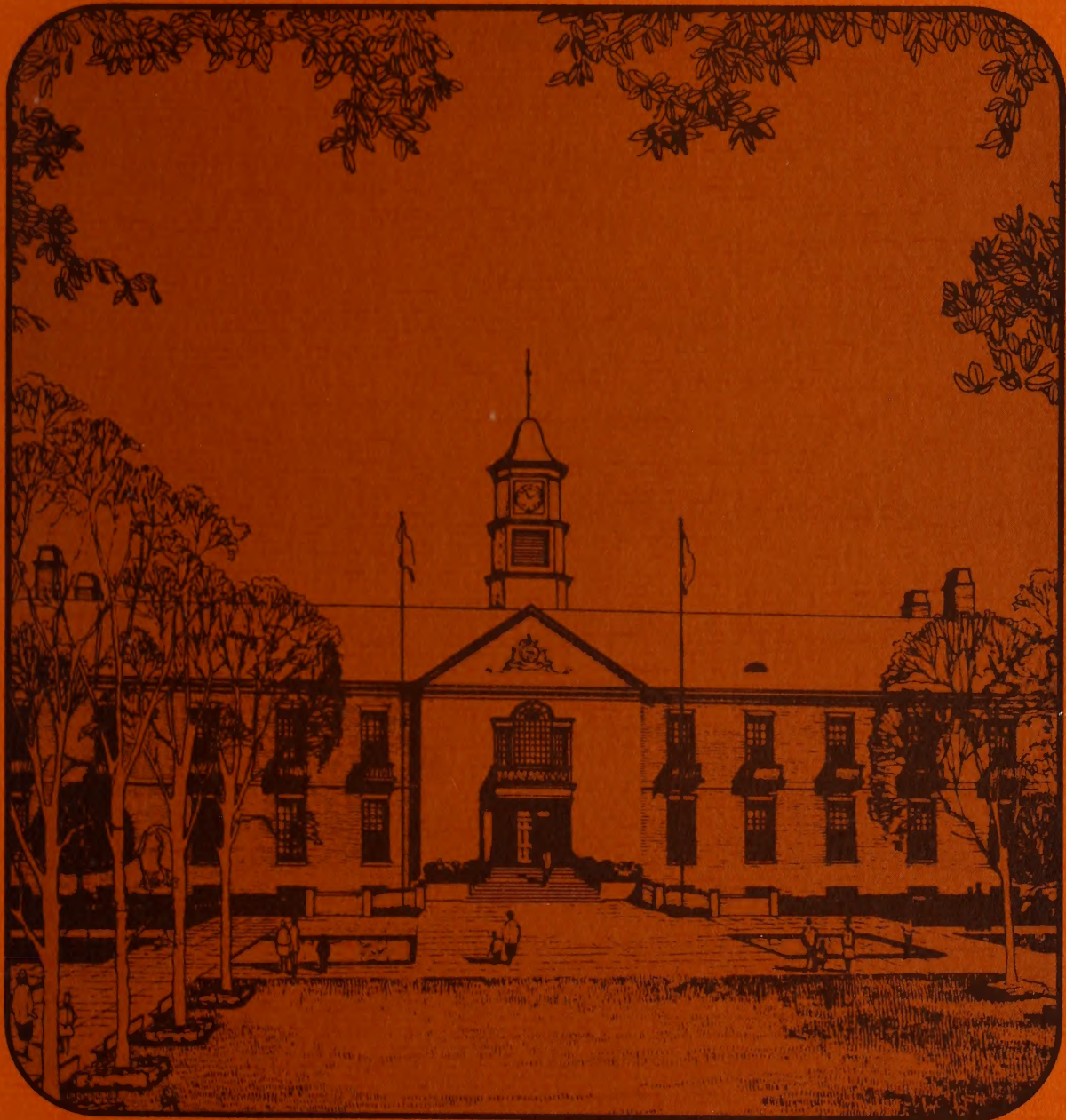


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# COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN



EDGECOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



ABSTRACT

TITLE: Community Facilities Plan, Edgecombe County, North Carolina

AUTHOR: Edgecombe County Planning Board, with the North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources, Division of Community Services, Central Area Office, Raleigh, North Carolina (Sara Steiner)

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ABSTRACT: The Edgecombe County Community Facilities Plan investigates the existing conditions in the county's facilities and services, compares these conditions with applicable state and national standards to determine adequacy, and proposes recommendations for improvements.

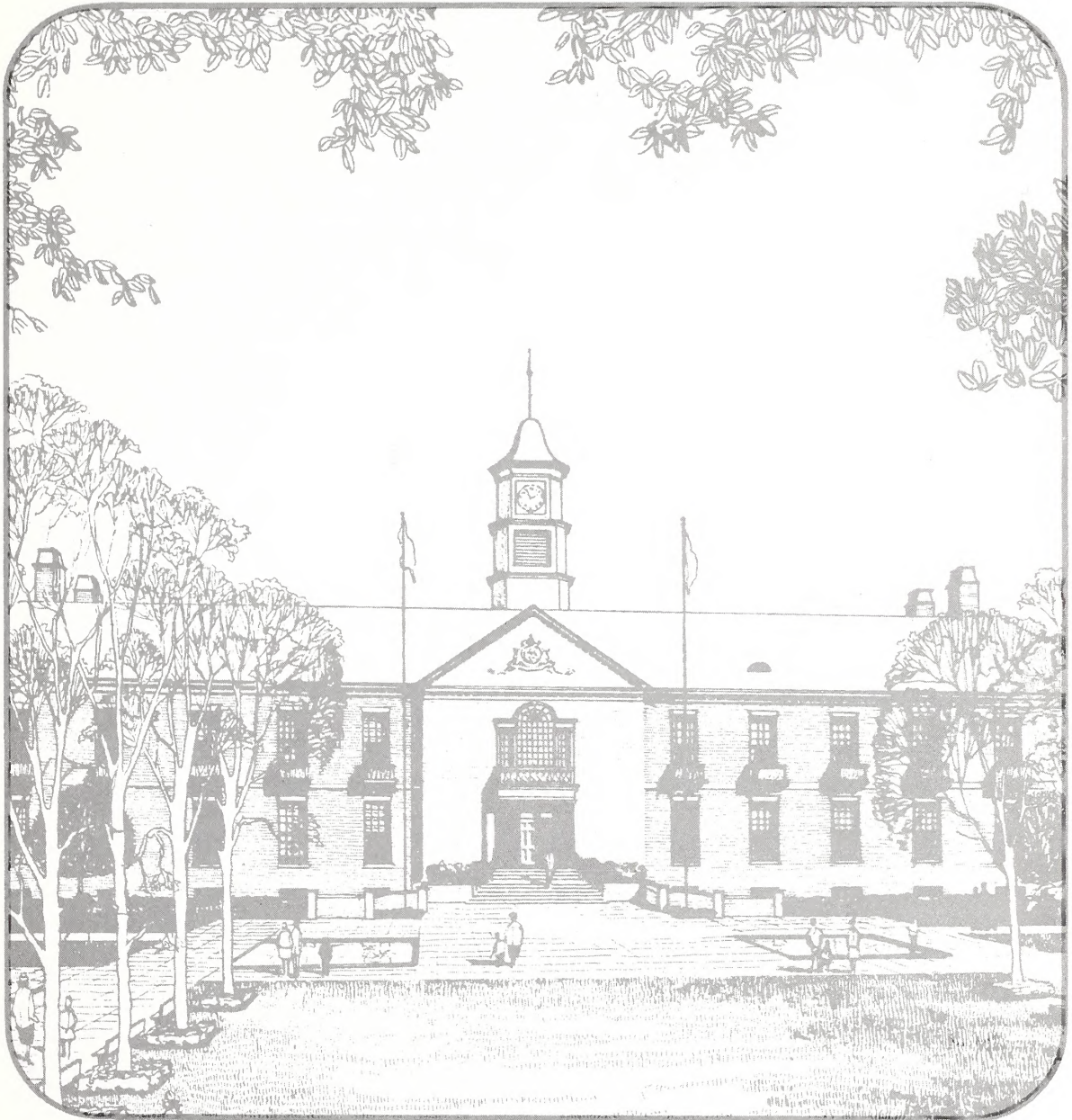
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# COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN



EDGECOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



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## INTRODUCTION

Community Facilities are an important element in every community, be it a large metropolitan area, a small town, or a rural county. Planning for these facilities is necessary in order to ensure an adequate and desirable environment for the residents of the community. A comprehensive community facilities plan provides a guideline for improving both facilities and services.

This study presents such a plan for Edgecombe County. It investigates the existing conditions of health, recreation, welfare, education, public safety, public utilities, and administration in the county and compares each with national and regional standards. This, coupled with projected needs for the county based on population and economic trends, provides a basis for determining inadequacies in the present services and facilities. Additional facilities, services, or programs are then proposed to meet the needs or fill in the gaps.

Edgecombe County's community facilities plan should be used as an outline for initiating new projects or revising existing facilities or programs in the future. In conjunction with the Community Facilities Plan, a Capital Improvements Budget has been prepared to facilitate scheduling and financing of major expenditures. Used together, these two plans will provide Edgecombe County with both a general program and specific steps toward providing adequate community facilities in the county.





## METHODOLOGY

Information about Edgecombe County's existing community facilities was obtained primarily from county officials, department heads, and local citizens. Discussions with these people and survey questionnaires completed by them were used, as well as publications and printed material which provided information about current conditions. Officials on the state level of government supplied further data and statistics. In addition, a survey of one hundred-fifty representatives of the business, educational, governmental, industrial and professional communities in Edgecombe County was conducted in May of 1971 by the Region L\* Council of Governments. This survey supplements the above information.

Current conditions in facilities and programs were compared with national, regional, state, and local standards to determine the adequacy of each. From this analysis, problems and needs were identified and recommendations for improvements were made.

A draft form of this study, or a portion of it, was sent to the various local officials for their review prior to final publication. Each department head, therefore, has had an opportunity to consider the proposed recommendations for his department and provide additional input into the final report. All comments made by these officials have been thoroughly evaluated and/or incorporated into this study.

The recommendations of this report which have been developed for Edgecombe County are felt to be the most desirable and feasible approaches for providing the county with adequate community facilities.

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\* Region L includes Nash, Wilson, Halifax, Northampton and Edgecombe Counties.





## EDGECOMBE COUNTY PROFILE

Edgecombe County is located in the coastal plain area of North Carolina and has few significant topographical features, with the exception of the Tar River.

The largest city is Rocky Mount, located on the border between Nash (17,322) and Edgecombe (14,825) Counties so that its population spreads into both counties. Tarboro, the county seat, is the next largest city (8,411) and is centrally-located within the county. Other smaller towns throughout the county include Pinetops (1,372), Princeville (797), Macclesfield (473), Speed (147) and Conetoe (142). Whitakers (1,004) and Battleboro (364) are also located on the boundary of Nash and Edgecombe Counties, and should be noted, since a portion of their population (498 and 212 respectively) is in Edgecombe County. The straddling of the county lines by these towns creates some problems and complicates county administration and services in several areas, as will be noted throughout the report.

The 1970 Census gave a total population of 52,341 for Edgecombe County (24,751 black, 27,543 white), a decrease of 1,885 (3.5%) from the 1960 Census. There were 12,030 births and 5,108 deaths from 1960-1970, and a net outmigration of 8,807 (16.2%). Recent projections made by the N. C. Department of Administration, State Planning Division reflect the trend toward a loss of population and estimate Edgecombe County's 1980 population as 49,673. Recommendations of this report will also reflect the decreasing population.

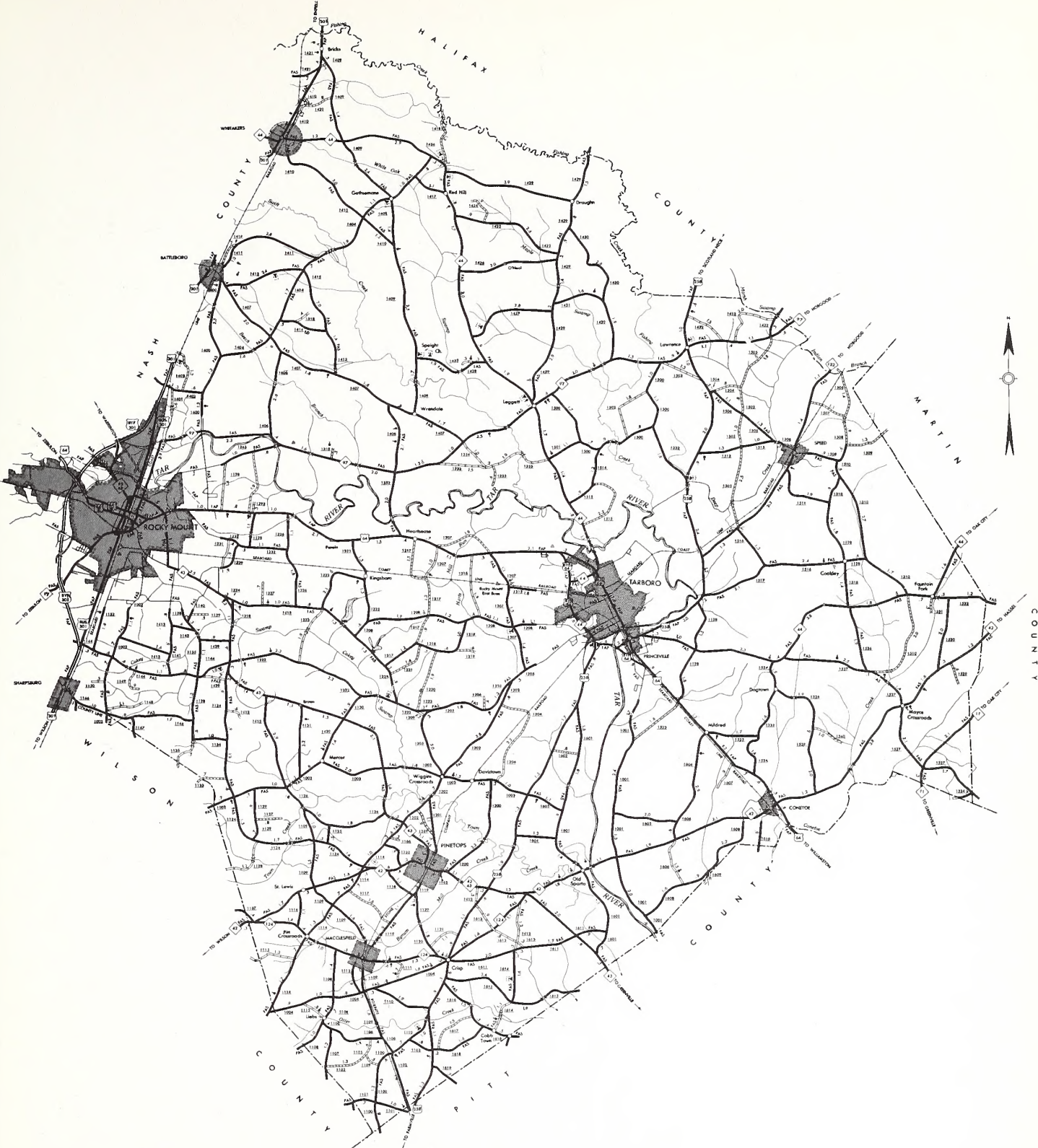
Although agriculture has been the traditional economic base of Edgecombe County, industry is becoming increasingly important. Lack of skills and low levels of education have inhibited a smooth transition from agriculture to industry. As a result, unemployment and outmigration of persons in the productive age group (18-64) have been high. Unemployment hovered

around 7% in 1971. From 1950 to 1960, outmigration of people ages 18-64 increased by almost 5%. However, by 1970, it had decreased by approximately 2.5%. These factors will also be considered in this report.

Edgecombe County has in recent years adopted the county manager form of government. It has also established a Planning Board to investigate problems of concern to the county and make recommendations to the county commissioners. Subdivision regulations have been adopted, and a zoning ordinance is currently under consideration.

All of the above factors have been taken into account in the formulation of recommendations for this Community Facilities Plan.





MAP 1

# EDGECOMBE COUNTY

## NORTH CAROLINA

PREPARED BY THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION  
PLANNING AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION







## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS





## COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Edgecombe County is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners, which is elected at large for four-year staggered terms. Also elected are the positions of Sheriff, Register of Deeds and Coroner. The Commissioners appoint a Tax Supervisor, Tax Collector, County Manager/Auditor, Health Director, Social Services Director, Veteran's Service Officer, Dog Warden and Assistant, and the County Attorney. Recently, the county has been granted additional funds by the federal government to enable the county to employ a planner, a building inspector, and a draftsman.

Edgecombe County is fortunate to have a handsome new (1964) two-story courthouse in downtown Tarboro to house the following county officials: County Manager/Auditor, Clerk, Register of Deeds, Sheriff, Tax Supervisor and Tax Collector. Below is a summary of the utilization of office space in the courthouse:

<u>Use</u>	<u>Approximate Size (Sq.Ft.)</u>	<u>Number Employees</u>	<u>Space/Employee</u>
County Manager	160	1	160
Ass't. County Manager	120	1	120
County Manager's Secretaries	550	4	138
Clerk	1,331	9	148
Register of Deeds	770	4	192
Sheriff	120	1	120
Sheriff's Secretary	120	1	120
Tax Supervisor	1,158	7	165
Tax Collector	421	3	140

The Edgecombe County Courthouse is also the center of judicial activities for the county, and includes several courtrooms, judges offices, jury rooms, and a law library. The total square footage of the courthouse is approximately 42,000 square feet, with offices primarily on the first floor and court facilities on the second. The county jail is located in the basement of the courthouse.

In addition to the courthouse, the county maintains several other buildings for use by county offices. An office building of 5,500 square feet (Annex #2) located next to the courthouse, holds the Social Security, Veteran's Services, ABC, Highway Patrol, Election Board, Magistrate, Food Stamp, Driver's License Examiner, State Probation Officer and County Planner Offices. Use of space and employees for these offices is as follows:

<u>Use</u>	<u>Approximate Size (Sq.Ft.)</u>	<u>Number Employees</u>	<u>Space/Employee</u>
Social Security	168	1	168
Election Board	460	2	230
Planner	168	1	168
Veteran's Services	168	1	168
ABC	460	4	115
Highway Patrol	180	1	180
Magistrate	460	1	460
Food Stamp	200	1	200
Driver's License	168	1	168
State Probation Officer	170	1	170

Adjacent to this building is (Annex #3) the 3,700 square foot structure which houses Edgecombe County's social services department. Currently, the Social Services Department employs 25 people\* who occupy this 3,700

---

\* 1 Director, 1 Supervisor, 8 Social Workers, 9 Eligibility Specialists, 6 Clerical.

square foot structure. This provides approximately 111 square feet per employee since allowance (25%) was made for records, accessory, and storage space. The eight social workers must share offices, which precludes confidential interviews with clients.

Eleven additional employees for the social services department occupy a building in Rocky Mount: 1 Supervisor, 2 Eligibility Specialists, 5 Social Workers, and 3 Clerical Workers.

The courthouse annex, located on Main Street several blocks from the courthouse, provides 18,000 square feet for the following offices: Agricultural Extension Service, Draft Board, State Probation Officers, Red Cross, Federal Property Insurance and the Tarboro Branch of the County Community Action Program (NEED, Inc.). County office use is summarized below:

<u>Use</u>	<u>Approximate Size (Sq.Ft.)</u>	<u>Number Employees</u>	<u>Space/Employee</u>
Agricultural Extension	3,330	15	222
Draft Board	450	2	225
Community Action Program (NEED, Inc.)	900	8	112.5

A tax office for Edgecombe County is located in Rocky Mount to serve the people of that area. This is a 6,000 square foot structure which provides offices for tax collection and listing, plus a deputy sheriff's office.

Approximately 40 off-street parking spaces are provided for some employees with offices in the courthouse. Additional off-street parking spaces for county employees are located in a lot  $\frac{1}{2}$  block from the courthouse complex. On-street nonmetered parking is also available on all streets surrounding the courthouse and adjacent buildings.



## Standards/Analysis

Although space standards and needs vary, it is necessary to establish a standard to use as a measuring device for determining the adequacy of the existing conditions. For the purposes of this study, a minimum of 120 square feet per employee will be used as a standard.

Based on this standard, the Edgecombe County Courthouse has sufficient space to adequately and efficiently perform the functions housed in it. None of the offices provides less than 120 square feet per employee. A marked increase in the number of employees would, of course, decrease the amount of floor space per employee. However, present conditions in most offices provide some space for expansion.

Annex #2, the 5,500 square foot office building behind the courthouse and the courthouse annex also provide adequate space for the offices within them, and would allow the increased numbers of staff, or additional use by other county offices.

The Social Services Department, however, with approximately 111 square feet per employee, does not have adequate space. An additional minimum 225 square feet of space is needed in order to provide 120 square feet per employee. According to estimates of the Social Services Department, the work load of the department has tripled since 1960 due to new programs and interpretation of policies. If this trend continues, more space will be needed. An additional 600 square feet, to allow for five new employees, should be provided (total 825 additional square feet).

The conditions of all of the above structures are sound. The Edgecombe County Courthouse is in excellent condition and should require no major changes for many years. Annexes # 2 and 3 are also in good condition, although more efficient use of space and consolidation of activities is needed. The courthouse annex, while providing adequate space for employees, is in poor condition. Rehabilitation of this structure is not economically feasible.

The location of offices on the first floor of the courthouse facilities business and government transactions, since access among offices and to the public is easy. The offices within the other county office buildings, however, should be consolidated to maximize efficiency of operations and use of space.

A parking lot of approximately 40 spaces is located behind the courthouse for some employees and visitors. There is approximately one off-street parking space in the courthouse parking lot for every 1,000 square feet of gross floor area. The usual standard for government buildings is 1 space for every 200 or 300 square feet of floor area. However, adequate off-street parking is available in the lot one-half block away from the county offices.

#### Recommendations

In order to maximize efficiency of operations, county offices should be consolidated.

A new county office building should therefore be constructed, to provide for the necessary consolidation of county offices which are now scattered over several blocks, and allow sufficient office space for each department. It should be located as close to the courthouse as possible within the Urban Renewal Area proposed by Tarboro for the blocks bounded by Trade Street, St. Andrew Street, Pitt Street, and Water Street. It should provide approximately 20,000 square feet of office space for all county employees currently housed in the three annexes. It should be located on a site of at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres and should provide adequate off-street parking (100 spaces).

The courthouse annex should be demolished when the new county office building is completed. This lot should be used as parking space for nearby federal offices.



## EDUCATION: EDGECOMBE COUNTY SCHOOLS

The Edgecombe County Administrative unit operates ten schools throughout the county (Map #2) within three high school districts: the attendance areas of Coker-Wimberly, North Edgecombe, Phillips, Roberson, and Willow Grove are included in the northern area high school district; West Edgecombe and Bulluck are included in the western area high school district; and Carver, Living Hope and South Edgecombe are included in the southern area high school district (Map #2).

Current enrollment in these schools (1971-72) totals approximately 7,200. Enrollment for each school appears on the chart (pages 12 and 13), along with information about faculty and condition of facilities.

In 1970, a total of 312 teachers and principals (professional staff) was employed by Edgecombe County schools. In special education, there is one teacher for impaired speech, eleven for the educable mentally retarded, and two for the trainable mentally retarded. Pupil/professional staff ratios range from 19.2:1 at Coker Wimberly to 25:1 at Carver.

### Standards/Analysis

School sites, according to the N. C. Department of Public Instruction, should meet the following standards:

Elementary Schools - Ten acres plus an additional acre for each 100 pupils of projected ultimate maximum enrollment.

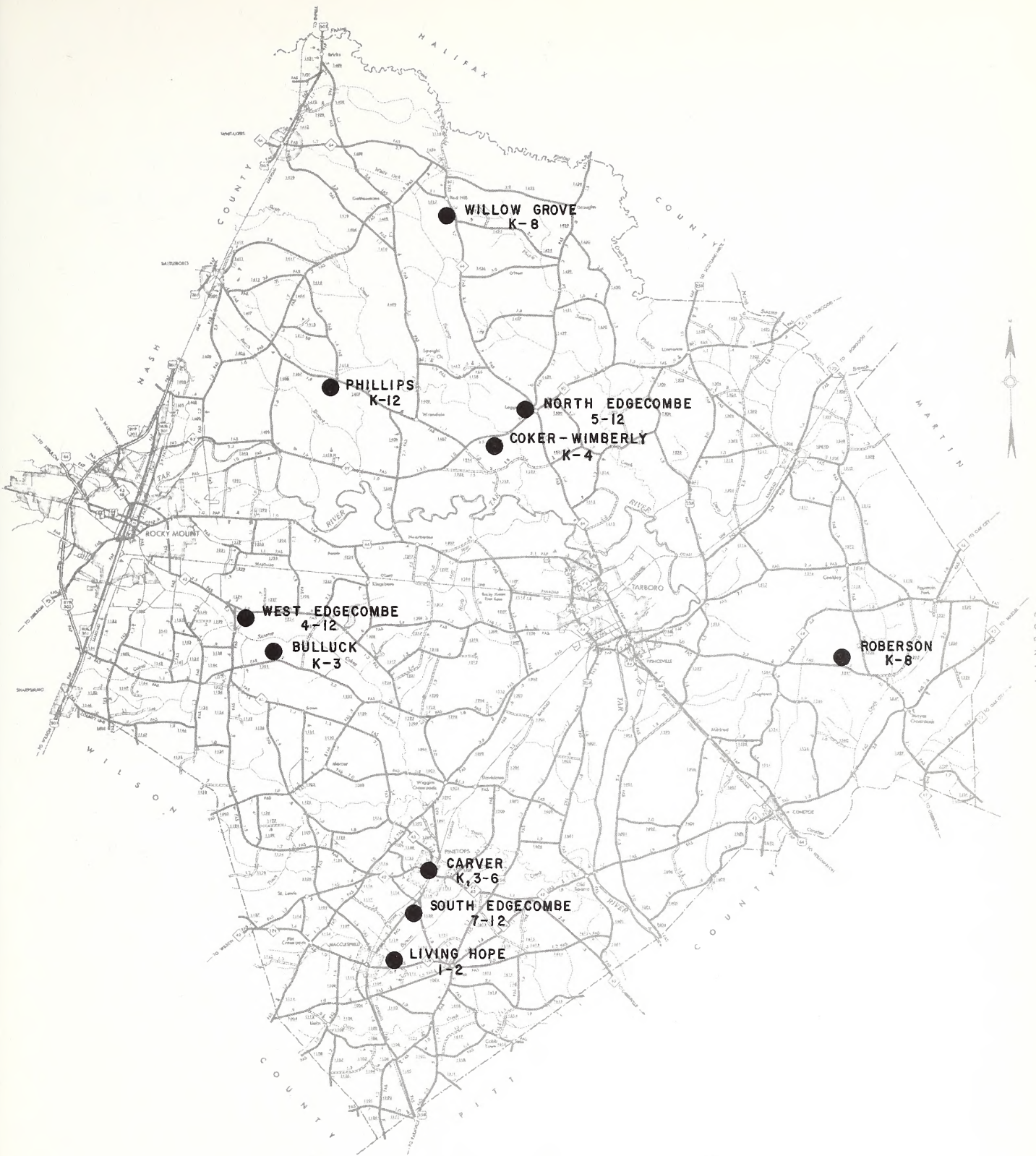
Junior High Schools - Twenty acres plus an additional acre for each 100 pupils of projected ultimate maximum enrollment.

Senior High Schools - Thirty acres plus an additional acre for each 100 pupils of projected ultimate maximum enrollment.

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SOURCE: Edgecombe County School Survey 1971-72, p. 58.





MAP 2

# **EDGECOMBE COUNTY**

NORTH CAROLINA

PREPARED BY THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION  
PLANNING AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

# **COUNTY SCHOOLS**





The following is a list of these school sites, their existing acreage, and the acreage needed to meet the above minimum requirements:

EDGECOMBE COUNTY SCHOOLS

<u>School</u>	<u>Acres Existing</u>	<u>Total Acres Needed</u>	<u>Additional Acres Needed</u>
Bulluck	13.75	14.6	.85
Carver	13.09	18.2	5.11
Coker-Wimberly	14.18	13.9	none
Living Hope	11.0	13.7	2.7
North Edgecombe	15.57	37.6	22.03
Phillips	14.53	18.8	4.3
Roberson	15.1	15.5	.4
South Edgecombe	23.12	41.0	17.88
West Edgecombe	26.7	43.8	17.1
Willow Grove	11.0	13.9	2.9
TOTAL	158.03		

---

SOURCE: Edgecombe County School Survey 1971-72.



School	Age	Grades	Staff (professional)	Current Membership	Number Classrooms	Condition <sup>1</sup>				Number Mobile Units	Pupil/Prof. Ratio	Recommendations
						Classrooms	Library	Auditorium/ Gym	Cafeteria			
Bulluck	1951	K-3	25	570	20	16F 4G	G	F	G	1	22.8	Expand as Needed
	1956											
	1965											
	1966											
Carver	1941	K 3-6	36	907	36	24F 12G	F	F	G	2	25.0	Phase out 1941 building
	1951											
	1956											
	1959											
Coker- Wimberly	1964	K-4	18	347	14	12F 2G	F	F	G	1	19.2	
	1965											
	1966											
	1959											
Living Hope	1966	1-2	17	357	12	9P 3G	G	F	G	1	21.1	
	1947											
	1966											
	1924											
North Edgcombe	1938	5-12	35	769	20	10P 8F 2G	P/F	P/G	P	2	21.9	Phase out 1924 building. Im- prove cafeteria. Expand site to 38 acres.
	1959											
	1964											
	1967											
Phillips	1949	K-12	41	888	37	31F 6G	F	F	G	3	21.6	Expand as needed
	1950											
	1959											
	1965											
	1967											

School	Age	Grades	Staff (professional)	Current Membership	Number Classrooms	Condition <sup>1</sup>				Number Mobile Units	Pupil/Prof. Ratio	Recommendations
						Classrooms	Library	Auditorium/ Gym	Cafeteria			
Roberson	1950	K-8	24	549	17	17F	G	F	G	5	22.8	
	1956											
	1966											
South Edgecombe	1924	7-12	47	1,066	41	13P	P/G	P/F/G	G	0	22.7	Phase out 1924 building.
	1941					28G						Expand site to 41.0 acres.
												Phase out 1923 and 1926 buildings. Improve cafeteria. Expand site to 44 acres.
West Edgecombe	1923	4-12	56	1,347	45	26P						
	1926					8F	P/G	P/F	P	0	24	
	1947					13G						
	1945											
	1954											
Willow Grove	1959											
	1955	K-8	20	438	17	15F						
	1965					2G	F	F	G	1	21.9	
	1967											

SOURCE: Edgecombe County School Survey 1971-72, N. C. Department of Public Instruction.  
Edgecombe County Board of Education.

<sup>1</sup>G = Good

F = Fair (slash between two letters indicates two facilities' conditions)

P = Poor

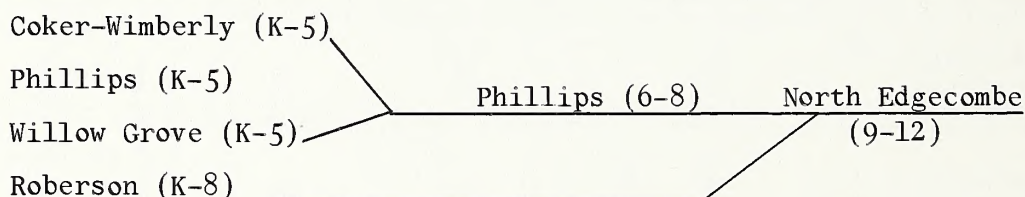
According to widely-accepted standards, a high school enrollment of 1,000 to 1,500 is needed for optimum results, while an enrollment of 750 to 800 is minimum size. Currently, none of the Edgecombe County Schools meets the minimum enrollment.

According to the 1971-72 school survey conducted by the N. C. Department of Public Instruction, a decrease in student population is anticipated for the next five years. The projection shows a decrease of:

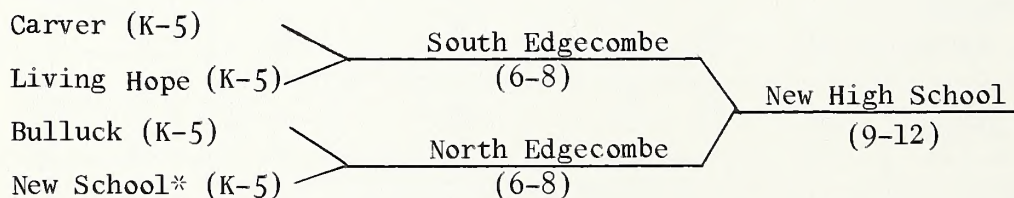
261 pupils in grades 1-8  
336 pupils in grades 9-12  
 597 Total

Based on enrollment, geography, and a general lack of financial resources, the State Department of Public Instruction proposed a long-range plan calling for two high school districts, a northern and a southern district. This includes the construction of a new high school, with an initial capacity of 1,275 near Wiggins Crossroads. The proposed organizational pattern is:

Northern District



Southern District



(\*or expansion of existing school)



The proposed long-range plan has an estimated cost range of \$4,550,000-\$5,400,000. The Edgecombe County Board of Education has not yet taken action on this plan, pending full review by county residents.

Public education in Edgecombe County is complicated by several factors. One major problem is the overall population decrease (from 54,226 in 1960 to 52,341 in 1970) in the county. This general population decline is further intensified by the rural-to-urban shift of population, as families move from the rural county to Tarboro and Rocky Mount. In addition, several private academies in the area have also drawn some students away from the county system. According to the 1971-72 Edgecombe County School Survey, published by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, there were 149 resident pupils attending schools in other units in 1970-1971, while no nonresident pupils attended schools in the Edgecombe County Administrative Unit in 1970-71. If these trends continue, the county school system faces a significant decline in pupil population.

The recent emphasis on vocational-technical education, too, has had an influence on the public school system, as evidenced by the rapid growth and popular support of the Edgecombe County Technical Institute (p. 16).

### Recommendations

Because of the county school system's unstable situation and the many complicating factors involved in major administration and organizational changes, it is recommended that an addendum to this plan, incorporating the Board of Education's final decision on organizational changes and long-range goals, be completed and inserted into this plan as soon as possible. In addition, the following recommendations are made:

- School sites at North Edgecombe, West Edgecombe and South Edgecombe should be expanded to meet minimum standards.
- Outmoded buildings at Carver, Living Hope, North Edgecombe, South Edgecombe, and West Edgecombe should be phased out of use.
- Continued efforts should be made to develop an economical and equitable long-range plan.

## EDUCATIONAL: EDGECOMBE COUNTY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

In 1967 the North Carolina Department of Community Colleges, with the State Legislature's approval, named Edgecombe County as a site for a technical institute. In March 1968, the first President of Edgecombe County Technical Institute was appointed, and in September of that year, classes began.

The Edgecombe County Technical Institute is located on an 82-acre site southwest of Tarboro and provides classrooms, shops, laboratories, and a library, all housed in three large brick buildings. There are also two frame houses on the site.

There is a total of 16 classrooms, each approximately 483 square feet (7,741 square feet total). In addition, there are 11 shops and/or laboratories, totaling 13,239 square feet.

The four major programs offered by Edgecombe Technical Institute include:

Technical Program (business)

Vocational Program (mechanics, cosmetology, practical nursing)

Adult Education Program (basic education)

Extension Education Program (fire service, tourism, supervisory training)

A general education program is scheduled to begin in September 1972.

The 16 classrooms are fully utilized during morning classes of the vocational and technical programs. Most of the adult education programs are conducted in evening sessions. The majority of classes in the extension program are held off-campus.

Enrollment has increased rapidly since 1968, with current enrollment (1971) reaching a total of 4,191. Below is a breakdown of the projected enrollment in each program:\*

---

\* SOURCE: Personnel Director, Edgecombe County Technical Institute.



		<u>1971-72</u>	<u>1972-73</u>	<u>1973-74</u>	<u>1974-75</u>
Curriculum Programs	Technical	130	150	170	195
	Vocational	159	190	220	260
	General Education	<u>32</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>45</u>
	Curriculum Total	321	376	430	500
	Adult Extension and General Education	<u>4,500</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>6,000</u>
	TOTAL	4,821	5,376	5,930	6,500

Currently, Edgecombe Technical Institute employs 16 teachers on its faculty and seven administrative officers, plus one librarian and clerical and maintenance workers.

Present plans call for a new wing to be added to the vocational building of approximately 20,000 square feet, including space for laboratory science, administrative offices, classrooms, and a large lecture hall.

#### Standards/Analysis

Recommendations for future needs in North Carolina's system of community colleges is based on a unit of "full-time equivalent" (FTE) or 16 hours. Thus, an average for calculating is developed from those students who carry more than 16 hours as well as those who carry less.

According to these standards, one teacher is desired for every FTE. Currently, Edgecombe Technical Institute, with its enrollment would need approximately 14 faculty members for its curriculum programs. It is over the standard with 16. Using the projected enrollments given here (top of page) additional staff will be needed after 1972.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number Faculty Needed</u>
1971-72	13.6 - 14.5
1972-73	15.9 - 17.0
1973-74	18.1 - 20.4
1974-75	20.4 - 22.7



At present, classroom population averages 20.7. In 1972-73, the average will be approximately 23.5 in 1973-74, the average will be 26 and in 1974-75, the average will be 31.3 students per classroom. The existing plans for an additional 20,000 square feet of classroom and office space should, however, help to maintain an average of approximately 20 students per classroom.

#### Recommendations

Continued efforts should be made to complete the additional 20,000 square feet of office and classroom space by 1973-74.

Additional vocational programs in health care professions should be initiated and coordinated with the Tarboro Clinic and County Hospital.

More teachers should be added to the faculty after 1972 to ensure compliance with the standard of one teacher per 22 FTE's.

## EDUCATION: EDGECOMBE COUNTY LIBRARY

The Edgecombe County Library is located on Main Street in Tarboro, north of the central business district. In addition to being the county seat and therefore a likely site for the county library, Tarboro is also centrally located within Edgecombe County, making the library relatively accessible to the whole population. The library is a one-story brick structure of approximately 6,520 square feet, including a reading room for adults, a children's reading room, a stock room, a multipurpose room, and staff offices. It was completed in 1955. Since that time, air conditioning throughout the building has been installed. No other major additions or changes have been made in the physical plant. Approximately ten off-street parking spaces are available for employees and library users in addition to the on-street parking spaces.

A new bookmobile, purchased in 1971, supplements the main library, and serves the entire county, stopping at each town or municipality for approximately one hour at least once every two weeks.

The 46,217 volumes available at the main library in Tarboro, are also available upon request through the Bookmobile. Coordination with the North Carolina State Library supplies additional volumes on loan, either directly from its stock or through another library located by the North Carolina State Library.

In addition to its lending services, the Edgecombe County Library also borrows films for civic and church groups, and the Head Start Program, conducts a story-hour in the summer for young children, secures books for use by the local Head Start Program, and sponsors concerts, lectures, and art exhibits in conjunction with the Friends of the Library.

The Edgecombe County Library has a staff of eight librarians plus year-round student assistants. Seven of the librarians are full-time employees, and three have college training. The remaining four staff members are high school graduates and have on-the-job training. Several student assistants and one part-time janitor are also employed by the library.

The library is open approximately 50 hours per week, (9:30-6:00 on weekdays and 9:30-2:00 on Saturdays). In the autumn of 1971, evening hours were added to the regular daily schedule, making the library open from 9:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m. one day each week.

Below is a comparison of the Edgecombe County library with standards established by the N. C. State Library Association.

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>NCLA Standard</u>
Book Stock:	46,217 volumes	$2\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{3}{4}$ per capita (93,790)
Staff:	7 full-time 3 college	1/3000 population (17) 1/3 professionals (5-6)
Space:		
Estimated Total:	6,520 sq. ft.	15,000 sq. ft.
Reader Space		
Per Capita:	1,071 sq. ft.	.5 - .6 sq.ft./capita (5,000)
Seats:	65	3/1000 population (156)
Staff Work Space:	594 sq. ft.	1,500 sq. ft.
Linear Feet of Shelf:	3,386 ft.	6,300 ft.
Open Hours:	50 per week	30 per week

Based on these standards, the Edgecombe County Library is inadequate in space, staff and book stock. To meet the minimum requirements, it should be at least 15,000 square feet, with 5,000 square feet in reader space and at least 1,500 square feet in staff work space. Based on Edgecombe County's population of approximately 37,516, 93,790 (minus the Edgecombe County



portion of Rocky Mount)\* volumes are needed in order to sufficiently serve the population. A larger staff is also needed. The library exceeds the minimum number of open hours per week.

#### Recommendations

- The library should be expanded to a minimum total of 15,000 square feet. This should be a joint city-county venture, using federal funds under Title II of the Library Services and Construction Act. Adequate off-street parking should be provided.
- A campaign to double the volumes in the book stock should be initiated. At least 25% of the new volumes should be children's books.
- The staff should be gradually increased to a total of 17. Three new staff members should be employed initially.

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\* Edgecombe County residents of Rocky Mount are served by a Rocky Mount Library located on the Edgecombe County side. Edgecombe County contributes to the support of this library.

# HEALTH: EDGECOMBE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Edgecombe County Health Department is located on Rocky Mount Highway in Tarboro, within the complex of medical buildings including Edgecombe County Hospital, two boarding homes, the Tarboro Clinic and the newly constructed Edgecombe-Nash Mental Health Center. It is a one story brick structure completed in 1953 and includes five office, two examining rooms, one X-ray room, one storage room and one reception/waiting room. Below is a summary of the use of the main building, the square footage, the number of employees per room, and the amount of space per employee:

<u>Room Use</u>	<u>Approximate Size (Sq. Ft.)</u>	<u>Number Personnel</u>	<u>Estimated Space Per Employee (Sq. Ft.)</u>
Clerical	384	3	128
Nurses' Offices	252	7*	36
Sanitarian's Offices	204	3	68
Dog Warden's Offices	120	2	60
Administrative Offices	132	2	66
Utility Room	50		
Examination Rooms (2)	200		
Conference Room	160		
Reception Room	525		
X-Ray Room	150		
Storage (Lab)	220		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,397 Square Feet</b>		

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\* One nurse is supported entirely by State-Federal funds through the Child Care Program.

Two mobile units (approximately 720 square feet) with five examining rooms and four offices have been added on the site adjacent to the health department building. One of these units provides office space for three school health (ESEA) nurses, one family planning nurse, one clerk, and two aides. The other unit is used for interviews and examinations.

Mobile Units (720 Square Feet Total)

<u>Use</u>	<u>Approximate Size (Sq. Ft.)</u>	<u>Number Personnel</u>	<u>Estimated Space Per Employee (Sq. Ft.)</u>
ESEA Nurses	329	3	109
Family Planning Nurse	117	1	117
Clerk	78	1	78
Aides	100	2	50
Exam/Treatment (5)	540		

Twelve parking spaces are available for health department employees and approximately 30 additional spaces are available for visitor use. This is adequate for the present. If, however, office space is expanded, additional parking (one space/200 feet of floor space plus one space for each employee) must be provided.

In addition to the health department's Tarboro office, the City of Rocky Mount maintains a health department which serves the residents of Rocky Mount who live in Edgecombe County. This department will be operational until July 1972, when the city will cease to provide funds for its support. (SOURCE: Edgecombe County Health Department)

The Rocky Mount Health Department has a total of 4,000 square feet, with five examining rooms (approximately 150 square feet each) and five offices (approximately 250 square feet each). Seventeen people are employed: 12 professional, three supervisory and two clerical workers. The



five offices allow an estimated 104 square feet per employee. A family planning project which employs five people and holds its clinics in the health department building, occupies office space in an adjacent mobile unit. Approximately 600 square feet, or 120 square feet per employee is available in office space.

Currently, Edgecombe County employs a health department supervisor, a physician, on a part-time basis. This supervisor also acts as the administrative officer for the Rocky Mount and Nash County Health Departments. At the Tarboro Health Office, the director is aided by an administrative assistant who is also a sanitarian for the Health Department.

The total staff of the Edgecombe County Health Department includes:

1/3 time director	(1 sanitarian aide)
7 public health nurses	2 dog wardens
3 ESEA nurses	3 clerks
2 sanitarians	1 clinic helper

1 janitor

(In addition, the federal government pays the salary of one family planning nurse).

The family planning clinic is held by the Edgecombe County Health Department staff and aided by members of the family planning project, some of whom come from Nash County and the City of Rocky Mount family planning project offices.

The Edgecombe County Health Department operates or is involved with the following programs:

Environmental:

- grading and inspection of food establishments
- rural sanitation (water and sewer)
- insect and rodent control
- solid waste program (p.52)

### Medical and Nursing:

- Maternal and child care programs (clinics held in the Health Department and nurses included in making home visits)
- school program (ear, eye, dental, TB check-ups)
- family planning program (clinics, home-nursing visits and outreach)
- immunization program
- communicable disease program
- chronic disease program

### Vital Statistics

The following is a summary of the responses about health care obtained through the Region L Council of Governments Survey:

### Health and Safety

1. Check the word adequate, or inadequate, as you feel they describe the following situations in your local community:

	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>Inadequate</u>
a. Quantity of Health Care Facilities	14%	86%
b. Quantity of Health Care Programs	58%	42%
c. Number of Health Care Personnel	34%	66%
d. Quality of Health Care Facilities	49%	51%
e. Quality or Efficiency of Health Care Programs	49%	51%
f. Efficiency of Health Care Personnel	58%	42%

2. Do you feel that drug abuse is a serious regional problem and that it warrants a greater emphasis?    Yes 90%    No 10%
3. Do you consider pollution as a threat to the health and safety of area citizens?    Yes 79%    No 21%
4. Are area-wide programs needed to curtail and prevent pollution?  
Yes 90%    No 10%

The majority of responses indicated a pressing need for additional health care facilities and personnel. Drug abuse and pollution were both considered as major health problems to be treated.



## Standards/Analysis

The Edgecombe County Health Department has a pressing need for additional space. Confidential conferences with patients are prohibited by a total lack of private offices. Total office space in the main building is 708 square feet for 14 employees, an average of only 50.5 square feet per person. Private offices are necessary for all nurses, sanitarians, dog wardens, and administrative officers. Each office should be at least 120 square feet.

Office space in the mobile units is somewhat more abundant than in the main building, but is still inadequate. A minimum of 120 square feet of office space should be provided for the employees now located in the mobile units.

Clerical workers have an estimated 96 square feet per employee in the main building, and 78 square feet in the mobile units. Additional space is needed for the employees as well as for records and storage space.

The 200 square feet in examination rooms in the main building is inadequate, since it will accommodate a maximum of three patients at one time. Even adding the examining rooms in the mobile unit, the total number provides only one examining room for every 7,400 people in the county. The location of these examining rooms away from the building also inhibits efficient procedures and care. Additional space in the reception room is also needed to eliminate congestion and maximize efficiency. The existing 525 square feet of space is insufficient for the county's population and the use of the health department, especially during peak clinic periods.

In addition to space needs, more professional, administrative, and clerical personnel are necessary to provide adequate health care services.



Currently, the director spends two half-days per week at the Tarboro office. This situation inhibits an efficient administrative process and thus hinders the health care services. Because the administrative assistant also holds a full-time position as a sanitarian, he is unable to afford the necessary time for administrative duties. A full-time health director is needed.\* A full-time assistant administrator will also be required in the near future.

Offices for treatment and examination should be maintained in Nashville, Rocky Mount and Tarboro. Financial support would be provided by Nash and Edgecombe Counties based on population. The two-county health district would have one board of health, one director, and one budget. The advantages of this approach are numerous: administration will be simplified, coordination with other health care services will be facilitated, residents of Rocky Mount will continue to be served locally, and flexibility of programs and services will be increased since city and/or county limits will not bind health department employees.

The professional staff of the Tarboro office should also be increased. At the present time, there is approximately one public health nurse for every 7,475 persons in Edgecombe County. Partially because of increased awareness of health services, the work load of the health department has increased by an estimated 50% since 1960. During the same period the staff was increased by four employees (15-19). Assuming a continued increase of demand for services, additional professional personnel are needed.

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\* With the City of Rocky Mount's withdrawing financial support from the city's Health Department, many administrative changes must be made in Edgecombe County's Health Department. The hiring of a full-time administrator would be the first step toward the development of a health district including Nash County and Edgecombe County. A bi-county health district would be the most feasible way of providing adequate health care services to the area.

## Recommendations

- A health district including Nash and Edgecombe Counties should be established, financed by the two counties on the basis of population. Offices for treatment and examination should be maintained in Nashville, Rocky Mount, and Tarboro in order to make health care services accessible to most of the population.
- The health district should provide services to rural areas by using the mobile units. They should be equipped with facilities for examination and interview and should circulate through the counties on a regular schedule to provide initial examination and referral services to rural areas of the two counties.
- A new wing of at least 3,000 square feet should be added to the northeast side of the Tarboro health office and include the following:

15 offices @ 120 sq. ft.	1,800 sq. ft.
8 examining rooms @ 100 sq. ft.	800
addition to reception room	280
addition to records room	<u>120</u>
	3,000 sq. ft.
- A minimum of 40 parking spaces should be provided for staff and patients.
- A full-time health director should be hired to supervise the two-county health district.
- A full-time assistant administrator should be hired by 1974.
- Three additional nurses should be hired as soon as possible.
- One additional clerical worker should be hired by 1975.
- One additional sanitarian should be hired to assist with the sanitary landfill program.
- A special task force, composed of representatives of school, health, court, and law enforcement programs, should be designated to develop a comprehensive plan for dealing with the problem of drug abuse in conjunction with state authorities.



## HEALTH: EDGECOMBE GENERAL HOSPITAL

Edgecombe County's \$2,900,000 hospital is located in Tarboro on Rocky Mount Highway where it is adjacent to the county health office and the Tarboro clinic. The new mental health clinic is also in this area. The entire area (100 acres) is owned by the county and provides additional land for expansion of health care facilities.

Edgecombe General Hospital has a total of 246 beds utilized as follows:

Private Rooms:	198
Semi-Private Rooms:	6
Pediatrics:	12 (plus 4 cribs)
Obstetrics:	18
Intensive Care/Coronary Care Unit	6
Emergency Room	2

Total floor space is approximately 120,312 square feet. In addition to general hospital care, the hospital provides an intensive care/coronary care unit, a physical therapy unit, inhalation therapy, and mental health care. Four operating rooms are available. Out-patient services are provided primarily by the health department.

Edgecombe General Hospital employs 202 people, 143 of whom are professionals. The following is a breakdown of the total staff.

Physicians	14
Nurses:	
RN's:	31
LPN's:	82
Technicians:	16
Administrative:	27
Maintenance:	13
Dietary:	19



The parking lot for Edgecombe General Hospital includes 175 spaces for staff and visitors.

A medical education program has recently been undertaken by the hospital and Tarboro clinic to attract additional physicians to the area, and improve health care services in Edgecombe County. A teaching program with the University of North Carolina Medical School at Chapel Hill has been established to utilize and train medical students in community medicine. Plans to coordinate training of persons in para-medical professions and to provide comprehensive health planning for the area are being developed.

### Standards/Analysis

Edgecombe General Hospital has a sufficient number of beds to serve its present population adequately. According to the American Public Health Association, the general standard of 4.5 hospital beds per 1,000 people has been recommended. Using Edgecombe County's 1970 population (52,341), a total of 234 beds would be needed; Edgecombe General Hospital's total of 246 beds exceeds the recommended number. An increase in population would soon make Edgecombe County's hospital facilities inadequate. However, current projections for population in 1980 reflect the past decade's trend toward a decrease in population and estimate the 1980 population at 49,673.\* If this projection holds, additional facilities will not be necessary.

Parking is also adequate. General standards recommend the following parking space to be provided for hospitals:

1 space for each 4 beds

1 space for each physician

1 space for each 4 employees\*\*

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\* State Planning Division, N. C. Department of Administration, "Trend Projections."

\*\* "Off-Street Parking for N. C. Cities" N. C. Department of Conservation and Development, Division of Community Planning, 1964.

Applying these standards to Edgecombe General Hospital, a total of 123 parking spaces would be needed. With 175 parking spaces presently existing, no immediate additions are necessary.

However, the current staff is insufficient in numbers to serve Edgecombe County. At the present time, there is only one physician for every 3,738 people in the county, and one registered nurse for every 1,688 people in the county. Although they are assisted by practical nurses, technicians, and para-medical personnel, additional professional medical personnel are needed.

### Recommendations

Concentrated efforts should be made to attract more physicians and nurses to the area by:

- encouraging and expanding the existing program with UNC-Chapel Hill.
- expanding the medical education program to offer practicing physicians at Edgecombe General Hospital continuing medical education with UNC.
- providing increased supportive medical services and personnel through additional training of para-professionals.
- encouraging private and public agencies to provide the amenities (such as good housing, schools, recreation, social and cultural activities) needed to attract new physicians.
- A special committee of physicians, medical administrators, and educators should be designated as the committee responsible for organizing and developing a comprehensive health care program for Edgecombe County in conjunction with Region L.
- Efforts should be made to expand the programs for medical para-professionals at Edgecombe Technical Institute. Coordination between these programs and the Tarboro Clinic and Edgecombe General Hospital should be developed to maximize training and practical experience.



## HEALTH: EDGECOMBE-NASH MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC

The Edgecombe-Nash Mental Health Clinic is an organization which functions separately from the two counties, but is responsible to the Commissioners. It is located in a two-story building near the central business district of Rocky Mount. The building is owned by Nash County and includes approximately 18,000 square feet in offices, treatment rooms, and reception/waiting areas.

Because the entire staff does not utilize the building at the same time adequate office space is available. A therapy room on the second floor is available for training and observation of patients. The third floor is used for group therapy, as well as office space. The first floor is being developed for a partial hospitalization program.

The staff for this clinic includes the following:

- Full-time

- 1 psychiatrist
- 1 psychologist
- 1 social worker
- 1 mental retardation coordinator
- 2 nurses
- 1 alcohol program coordinator
- 6 clerical workers
- 1 business manager
- 1 assistant business manager
- 1 janitor

- Part-time

- 6 psychiatrists
- 2 psychologists
- 1 social worker
- 1 nurse
- 1 marriage counselor
- 1 research analyst
- 1 clerical worker
- 2 neighborhood youth corps workers



In addition to the Rocky Mount Clinic, a new mental health clinic is under construction in Tarboro. It is located on Rocky Mount Highway, adjacent to the county health office, and will provide 14,400 square feet of space for the clinic.

This will be divided into a children's and an adult section, and ample fenced play areas will be provided. The children's section will include group therapy rooms, classrooms, a large area for partial hospitalization programs, and a visual aid room. Included in the adult section will be group therapy rooms, individual offices for therapists, medical examination rooms, treatment rooms, a lounge and large indoor and outdoor areas for partial hospitalization programs.

A staffing grant request is currently under consideration by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, which, if approved in its entirety will provide \$1.2 million per year for eight years. Construction of the new clinic should be completed by the summer of 1972.

In addition to its referral, educational and counseling services, the Edgecombe-Nash Mental Health Clinic sponsors a day care center for mentally-retarded children of Rocky Mount. A twenty-four-hour emergency crises service is also located in the Rocky Mount mental health building. A phone listing for this service will also be in the Tarboro directory to ensure a broad service area.

#### Recommendations

- The Edgecombe-Nash Mental Health Clinic should work closely with the Region L Health Planning Council to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to the area's health problems.
- A year-round day care center for mentally retarded children should be established in Tarboro.

WELFARE: SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT & NEEDS, INC.

The social services department in Edgecombe County is responsible for administering this state-supervised program. Resources for this program are supplied in part by federal (75%), state (14%), and county (14%) governments.

The Edgecombe County Social Services Department has a total staff of thirty-six in compliance with state standards. Eleven of these employees occupy a building in Rocky Mount; the remaining 25 utilize a 3,700 square foot building in Tarboro near the county courthouse. As discussed in the section dealing with County Administration in this report, additional office space is needed for this Department.

The following is a partial summary of the caseload handled by the Edgecombe County Social Services Department:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Approximate Number of Cases</u>
Aid to Aged	460
Aid to Disabled	420
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	2,700
Aid to Blind	80
Medicaid	1,100
Food Stamps	<u>6,500</u>
TOTAL	11,180

This total caseload of 11,180 is approximately 21% of Edgecombe County's total population. An estimate of the per capita income in Edgecombe County for 1969 was made at \$2,621.\* In addition, the 1970 U. S. Census found that 8% of the county's population (4,335) is 65 years old or

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\* N. C. Department of Commerce, Business Economics.

more. All of the above figures indicate the need for public assistance and supportive services.

In addition to the county social services department, some social service functions are also executed by the bi-county Community Action Program (NEED, Inc.) which has its headquarters in Rocky Mount and a branch in Tarboro. The Tarboro office, located in the Courthouse Annex, has a staff of eight, including one coordinator, one counselor, one community organizer, three outreach workers, one clerk/typist, and one maintenance man/driver. Their activities include establishing youth and community organizations, forming a credit union, developing cooperatives, and providing emergency food to low income facilities, as well as referral and counseling services. A recent development has been the initiation of a mini-bus transportation service to work, clinics, and shopping areas.

#### Recommendations

- All activities concerned with social services should be located in one building for easy access to clients and among related agencies. The social services department should be moved from its present location to the new county office building when it is completed and be provided a minimum of 4,525 square feet of office space. Private offices for social workers should be provided. NEED, Inc. offices should also be moved to the new office building when it is completed. Additional space (minimum of 100 square feet) should be provided.
- Five additional employees should be hired initially by the social services department to reduce the caseload per worker. More employees should be hired when and if the caseload increases.
- Emphasis should be placed on manpower development and training, including training for the elderly and handicapped. NEED, Inc. should build a manpower training section by working with private industry and citizens and securing apprenticeships in various trades.



## PUBLIC SAFETY: LAW ENFORCEMENT

The sheriff's offices and county jail are located on the first floor and basement of the Edgecombe County Courthouse.

The sheriff's office and those offices adjacent to it on the first floor of the courthouse total approximately 304 square feet. Two employees usually occupy this office space (152 square feet per employee).

The jail has a total capacity of 84, with 60 beds for male prisoners, 16 for female prisoners, and five for juvenile prisoners. In addition there are three auxiliary bunks, and three cells for isolation.

Each jail cell is approximately 64 square feet. Additional space in jail facilities and jailers quarters is an estimated 600 square feet.

The average daily population of the Edgecombe County Jail is twenty-two. Below is a summary of the jail's population during the first seven months of 1971:

### EDGECOMBE COUNTY JAIL POPULATION

<u>1971</u>	<u>Highest Number Held on any one day</u>	<u>Average Daily Population</u>
January	26	19
February	32	24
March	35	23
April	32	21
May	30	22
June	34	26
July	25	20

Total Admissions 1970: 2,084

The staff includes the sheriff, ten deputies, one of whom is an office deputy, and two jailers. All employees have a high school education or its equivalent, and receive on-the-job training for a 60-90 day period. All

have a six month probation period. Additional training is received through Sheriff School courses conducted by the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill. Each employee has attended at least one of these sessions.

The Edgecombe County Sheriff's Department serves the county as well as some of the municipalities within it on a cooperative basis. Three squads of three men each alternate on a four day-on, two day-off basis. When on duty, they are on call for 24 hours and patrol approximately 10 hours, resulting in a scheduled 50 hour work week.

The county provides six automobiles for use by the sheriff's department; five are 1971 models and one is a 1970 model. One privately-owned automobile is used by the sheriff. All seven vehicles have communications equipment which relays to a base station operated in Tarboro.

Additional improvement in law enforcement was indicated as desired by the Region L. Survey:

	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>Inadequate</u>
g. Quantity of Law Enforcement Programs	43%	57%
h. Quality of Law Enforcement Programs	47%	53%
i. Quantity of Law Enforcement Personnel	47%	53%
j. Efficiency of Law Enforcement Personnel	57%	43%

#### Standards/Analysis

In 1970, the N. C. Department of Social Services, Division of Special Services (jail and detention services) inspected the Edgecombe County Jail and declared all facilities and physical conditions excellent. No major improvements to the jail facilities are necessary.



The FBI recommends 1.5-2.0 law enforcement officers per 1,000 population. Based on 52,000 people, 78 officers would be required. Some of Tarboro's twenty-two man force and Rocky Mount's 63 man force, which are also involved in law enforcement in the county, could be included with the county sheriff's department in calculating the number of additional employees needed. Even including Tarboro's force and half of Rocky Mount's, however, 15 additional law enforcement personnel would be needed to meet minimum FBI requirements.

The Edgecombe County Sheriff's Department has no extra programs in community relations or crime prevention. The study completed by the Law and Order Division\* found that the county had none of the following:

- improve attitudes to police programs ('69 & '70)
- protection of citizens and property program
- prevention of crime program
- programs to increase knowledge of the criminal justice system
- programs on multi-agency cooperation
- adult rehabilitation centers or half-way houses

The salary schedule for the Edgecombe County sheriff's department compares favorably with the average salary schedule for the region. (Region L average \$5,971 - Edgecombe County \$6,680).

The sheriff's department has a sufficient number of vehicles for the present. More will be needed as the number of employees increases.

Recent developments in law enforcement in Edgecombe County include plans for a county-wide law enforcement center. An application to the Governor's Law and Order Committee has been submitted for grant assistance to construct, equip, and operate an Edgecombe County Law Enforcement Service Center.

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\* North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources.



It is proposed that certain services for the Sheriff's Department, Tarboro Police Department, and ABC Board will be combined, in addition to providing office space for the Highway Patrol, Driver's License Office, Civil Defense, Court Auxiliary Service units, and other law and court activities. The services to be combined include a central records system, identification and classification, breathalyzer testing and training and parking facilities. A Central Communications System will be designed to serve all law enforcement agencies in the county, plus the county's fire network and rescue squad.

#### Recommendations

- Cooperate with adjoining counties which have inadequate jail facilities and utilize the Edgecombe County Jail. Inadequate or outmoded jails in surrounding counties should be closed, and the other counties should share the Edgecombe facility.
- Three additional patrolmen should be hired initially and the staff should be expanded gradually to a total of 25 if the population demands.
- Efforts should be made to employ more blacks on the force. Approximately one-half of the staff should be black, in proportion to the total population. At least two of the three new patrolmen hired initially should be black.
- Continued efforts should be made to establish an Edgecombe County Law Enforcement Service Center to consolidate and facilitate records, identification, classification and central communication.
- A task force composed of school, court, health, and law enforcement employees should be established to develop a comprehensive and coordinated plan for dealing with problems of alcohol and drug abuse.
- When the three new employees are hired, two new automobiles should be purchased, to ensure four patrol cars on duty at all times. When the number of employees is increased again, additional automobiles should be purchased so that two complete squads will have access to automobiles at all times.

## PUBLIC SAFETY: FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection in Edgecombe County is provided by seven rural fire departments located at Conetoe, South Edgecombe, Macclesfield, West Edgecombe, Leggett, Princeville and Speed. All of these have a four-mile district, except Speed, which has a three-mile district (Map #3). Additional assistance in fire protection is provided by fire departments in Battleboro, Whitakers, Stony Creek, Sharpsburg and P.E.M. The equipment for these fire departments complies with the minimum standards for each rating as established by the Fire Insurance Rating Bureau (p. 43).

Edgecombe County allocates a yearly sum to each rural fire department based on the size of the fire district served. The following is a breakdown of these allocations:

Conetoe	]	
South Edgecombe		
West Edgecombe		
Princeville		\$900.00
Macclesfield		
Leggett		
Speed		700.00
Battleboro	]	
Whitakers		550.00
Stony Creek	]	
Sharpsburg		300.00
Pitt-Edgecombe-Martin		

The existing fire departments are located so that the most densely populated areas have fire protection. However, not all of the county is served by these fire departments. Several new fire departments should be established at Heartsease, Draughn and Wrendale to ensure adequate protection to Edgecombe County.



The Tarboro Fire Department currently is dispatching all fire departments which give protection to Edgecombe County. This centralized system promotes efficiency and provides the needed coordination for fire protection. Continued efforts should be made to maximize and improve this coordination.

According to the N. C. Fire Insurance Rating Bureau pamphlet, "General Provisions Pertaining to Public Fire Defenses for Communities with Limited Water Supply," a minimum of eight firemen must be available for response to the alarm of fire. According to the information (p. 43), each rural fire department has an adequate number of firemen to provide the needed protection.

According to the Region L Council of Government Survey, 71% of the participants felt that fire protection in Edgecombe County is adequate.

5. Does your community have adequate fire protection programs and personnel?    Yes 71%    No 29%

#### Recommendations

- Three new rural fire departments with four-mile districts should be established at Heartsease, Draught and Wrendale to ensure the entire county of adequate fire protection. Each of these should be located on a one-acre site with consideration given to minimize running time. A minimum of sixteen firemen should be selected for each district.
- The fire department at Speed should be expanded and improved to a four-mile district.
- The existing policy which requires rural fire departments to extend protection beyond the four-mile district when needed, should be continued.
- A contractual arrangement between Edgecombe County and the Tarboro and Rocky Mount Fire Departments should be developed so that adequate fire protection is provided for the areas immediately surrounding these cities. In accordance with its policy toward rural fire districts, Edgecombe County should make an annual contribution to the Tarboro and Rocky Mount fire departments, based on the population and the size of the area within the county to be served by the cities' fire department. The contract could specify and limit the amount of each city's equipment which could be committed to fire protection in the county.



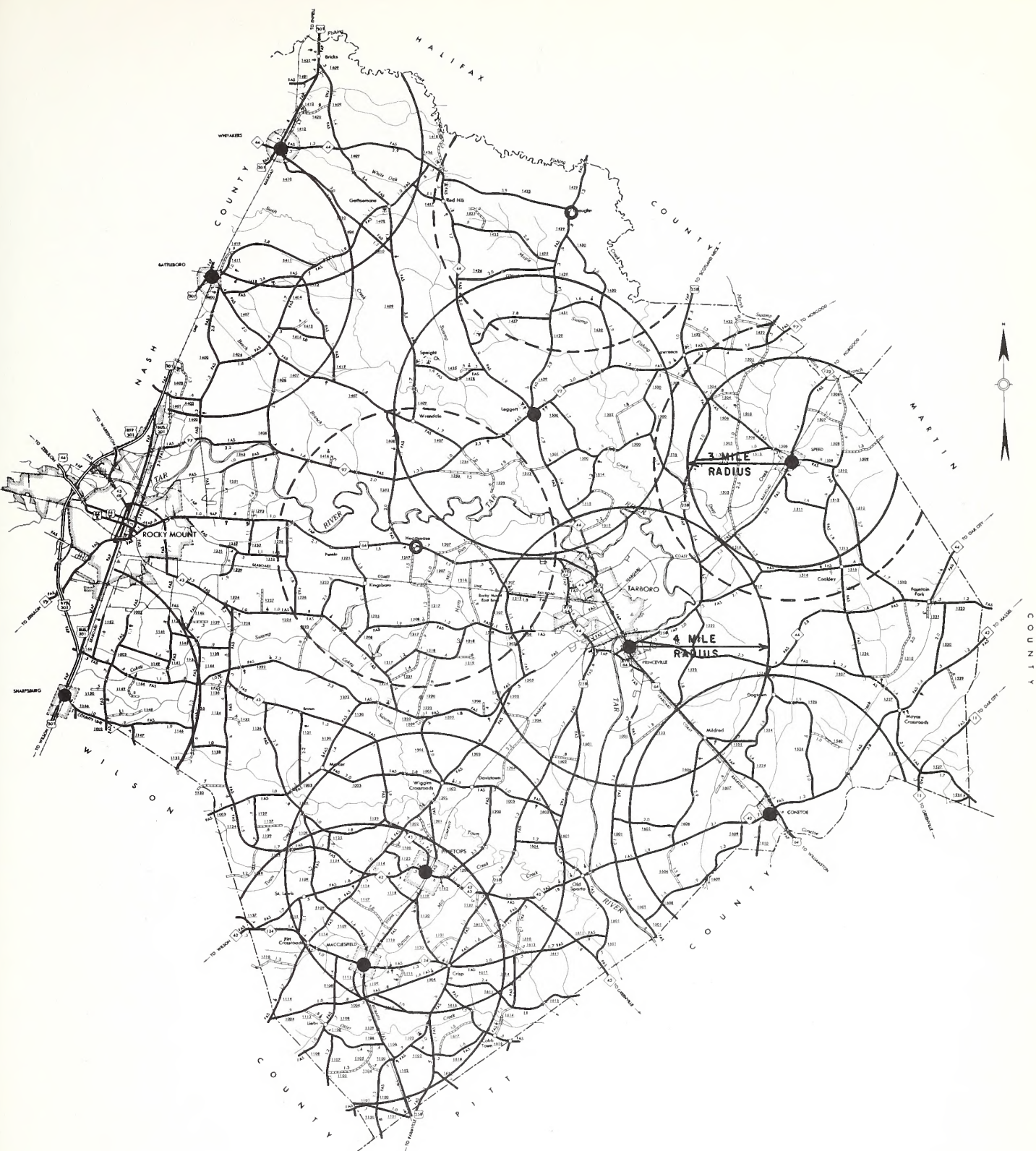
- A county fire marshall should be appointed to coordinate and supervise the activities of the fire departments serving the county.
- The central communication network, proposed to serve primarily law enforcement in Edgecombe County, should be completed and include dispatching and communications systems for all emergency operations in the County.

# RURAL FIRE PROTECTION IN EDGECOMBE COUNTY

District	Rating	Station (Structure)			Vehicles		Pump Capacity	Tank Capacity	Total Active	Personnel	
		Size	Age	Type	Year	Make Model				Day	Average Night Response Training
Conetoe	9-A	30' x 60' 72' x 32'	1800's	Brick	1957	Chev.	547 gpm	1,000 gal.	20. vol.		
					1961	Chev.	950				
					1954	Chev.					
Princeville	9AA	21' x 40'	1965	2 Bay Cinder Block	1942	Ford	500 gpm	515 gal. 1,000 gal. 820 gal.	25	7	15
					1956	Chev.	750				
					1952	Chev.	150				
Leggett	9-A	44' x 32'	2 yrs.	Block/Brick	1971	Ford	750 gpm	750 gal. 1,000 gal.	44	12	12
					1965	Chev.	60				
South Edgcombe	9-A	24' x 60'	1928 1961R	1 Story Wood/Metal	1964	Ford	400 gpm	500 gal. 1,000 gal.	26 vol.		
					1953	GMC					
Macclesfield	9-A	44' x 32'	2 yrs.	Block/Brick	1971	Ford	750 gpm	750 gal. 1,000 gal.	44	12	12
					1965	Chev.	none				
West Edgcombe	9-A	60' x 40' 15' x 15'	14 yrs.	Brick	1957	Ford	350 gpm	800 gal.	36	9	14
					1965	Inter-national	750 gpm				
					1968	Inter-national	150 gpm				

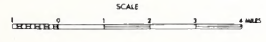






# **EDGECOMBE COUNTY** NORTH CAROLINA

PREPARED BY THE  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION  
PLANNING AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION



MAP 3

## **RURAL FIRE PROTECTION**



EXISTING STATIONS



PROPOSED STATIONS



## PUBLIC SAFETY: RESCUE SQUAD

The Edgecombe County Rescue Squad, a nonprofit corporation with headquarters in Tarboro, has been in operation for twelve years. It provides rescue services to approximately 65-70% of the county. Two private ambulance services, one in Rocky Mount and one in Pitt County supplement this rescue squad.

Its staff includes 30 volunteers and three full-time paid employees.

Equipment for the Rescue Squad includes:

- 3 ambulances, two of which are air-conditioned
- one rescue truck (purchased through the CDA)
- one boat with motor and trailer
- quarters to house the above equipment

Edgecombe County makes a yearly appropriation (1971:\$19,000) to support the Rescue Squad in addition to an initial contribution which helped to supply ambulances and the headquarters. The Town of Tarboro also contributed in a similar manner. Further support is obtained through solicitations and contributions.

## PUBLIC SAFETY: CIVIL DEFENSE

Edgecombe County also has the services of the bi-county Edgecombe-Nash Civil Defense Agency, which has its headquarters in Rocky Mount.

A director and secretary oversee the operation assisted by a board composed of two Edgecombe County Commissioners, two Nash County Commissioners, and two Rocky Mount Council members.

Activities of the Edgecombe-Nash Civil Defense Agency include the following:

- purchase of a rescue truck for use by the Edgecombe County Rescue Squad.



- provision of public fallout shelters.
- purchase of communications equipment for Edgecombe County's rural fire departments.
- preparations for a 200-bed emergency hospital in the National Guard Armory in Tarboro.
- sponsorship of a medical self-help training program, which has trained 759 people since its initiation in 1963.
- provision of radiological monitoring stations at the Tarboro and Rocky Mount Police Stations and the Tarboro post office.

Edgecombe County provides approximately one-third of the Civil Defense Agency's budget. This amounted to \$3,290 in 1971.

## RECREATION

The need for recreation areas and facilities has become increasingly important in recent years and will continue to do so as leisure time for the entire population becomes more abundant. Edgecombe County should take action now to ensure adequate recreation in the future.

Currently there are no county recreation areas. Rocky Mount has a total of 205 acres in parks and playgrounds. However, only one park is located on the Edgecombe County side of Rocky Mount. Tarboro, located in the center of Edgecombe County, has 46 acres in recreation facilities.

In addition, the public schools in Edgecombe County are located on sites where some recreation and playground facilities are available. The total acreage of these sites is approximately 157 acres, but only 70 acres are for recreation use. Added to the Tarboro acreage, 116 acres of recreation areas are present in the County.

Also of note in Edgecombe County are its many historical preservation sites. According to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (B.O.R.) classification system, historical and cultural sites are "associated with the history, tradition, or cultural heritage of National, State or Local interest and are of enough significance to merit preservation or restoration." Edgecombe County has numerous sites, especially along U.S. 258 from Tarboro to Scotland Neck. However, since most of these are private residences and inaccessible to the public, they cannot be considered as recreation sites.

Standards for determining the adequacy of county recreation or any sparsely-populated areas are not available. However, the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (B.O.R.) has developed standards for use in populated areas, which may be applied to counties also. This Class I, High Density Recreation Area is located "usually within or near major centers of urban population but may occur within such units as national parks and



forests remote from population concentrations." The standard calls for 8.75 acres per 1,000 population. Based on this standard, Tarboro alone needs 41 more acres than are now existing. Edgecombe County requires a minimum of 455 acres to meet these B.O.R. standards. Even when Tarboro's park acreage and the county school site acreage is totaled, an additional 203 acres are needed to meet minimum requirements for the county.

Another method of determining the adequacy of recreation areas and facilities in Edgecombe County is to consider the county school sites alone. Although they do provide some county recreational facilities, nine out of ten school sites do not meet the site requirements set by the Council of Educational Facility Planners as defined on page 10. The chart on page 11 lists the school sites in Edgecombe County, the existing acreage of each, and the acreage needed to meet minimum standards. According to this chart, only Coker-Wimberly has adequate acreage.

Actual acreage in recreational area totals approximately 70 acres. A chart indicating the type of facility, size, and available hours for use at each school can be found on page 48.

The Region L Council of Government Survey supplies the following additional information about recreation facilities in Edgecombe County:

#### Recreation

Check adequate, or inadequate, as you feel they describe recreation facilities and programs in your community:

	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>Inadequate</u>
Facilities For:		
Children	32%	68%
Teenagers	18%	82%
Adults	26%	79%
Elderly	19%	81%
Programs For:		
Children	28%	72%
Teenagers	15%	85%
Adults	28%	72%
Elderly	19%	81%



School	Type of Facility and Permanent Equipment (Playground, Ballfield, Basketball Court, etc.)	Size of Facility (in acres)	Hours Available for Use (school days and/or weekends)
G. W. Bulluck	Playground Area - Heavy Duty Swing Set and Slide Basketball Court - dirt Softball Field	5 acres	School Days 4:00-7:00 Weekends All Day
Carver	2 Dirt Basketball Courts	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres	School Days 9:00-3:00
Coker-Wimberly	Playground Area - Swings, Merry-go-Round, Sliding Board, Walking Ladder 2 Softball Courts 1 Basketball Court - dirt	7 acres	School Days 9:00-3:30 Weekends All Day
Living Hope	Playground Area - Set of 6 Swings, Slide, Giant-stride, Merry-go-Round, Monkey Bar and 2 Climb Arounds Volley ball and net Softball and kickball	6 acres	School Days 8:00-3:00 Weekends All Day
North Edgcombe	Gyms - Basketball Goals, Gym Mats Basketball Court - 4 Basketball Goal Courts Complete track will have track and related equipment Ballfield - Backstop, Dugouts Playground	.2 acres .15 acres 1.3 acres 5.0 acres .50 acres	School Days 8:30-3:30 Monday-Saturday 8:30-Sunset Sunday 1:00-Sunset Full-Time Each Week

School	Type of Facility and Permanent Equipment (Playground, Ballfield, Basketball Court, etc.)	Size of Facility (in acres)	Hours Available for Use (school days and/or weekends)
Phillips	Baseball Field	4 acres	Every Day 9:00-5:00
	Playground - Monkey Bars, Horizontal Ladder, Swings	6 acres	
	2 Basketball Goals - Outdoor Court	reg. size	
	Gymtorium		School Days & Nights
Roberson	Playground - Horizontal ladder, Merry-go-Round, Sliding Boards, Monkey Bar Climbs, Swings	3.3 acres	School Days After 3:15 Weekends All Day
	2 Basketball Courts - dirt		
	Volleyball Court - dirt		
	Softball Diamonds		
South Edgecombe	Baseball Field - Backstop	4 acres	Every Day morning-dark
	2 Softball Fields - Backstop	2 acres	
	Paved Basketball Courts - 8 Baskets	$\frac{1}{4}$ acre	
	Gym- 6 Baskets - 2 Courts	$\frac{1}{4}$ acre	School Days 8:00-3:15
West Edgecombe	Outside Basketball Court - Goals	$\frac{1}{4}$ acre	Full-Time
	Baseball Field	3 acres	
	Playground	9 acres	
Willow Grove	Basketball Court - dirt - Metal Goals & Backboard	50' x 84'	School Days 4:00-6:00 Weekends 10 hours
	Baseball Field	10 acres	
	Playground - Swing, Slide, Giant Stride, Climb Around, Merry-go-Round, Horizontal Ladder		

Based upon the above standards, as well as the opinion survey of area citizens, Edgecombe County has inadequate recreational facilities and areas.

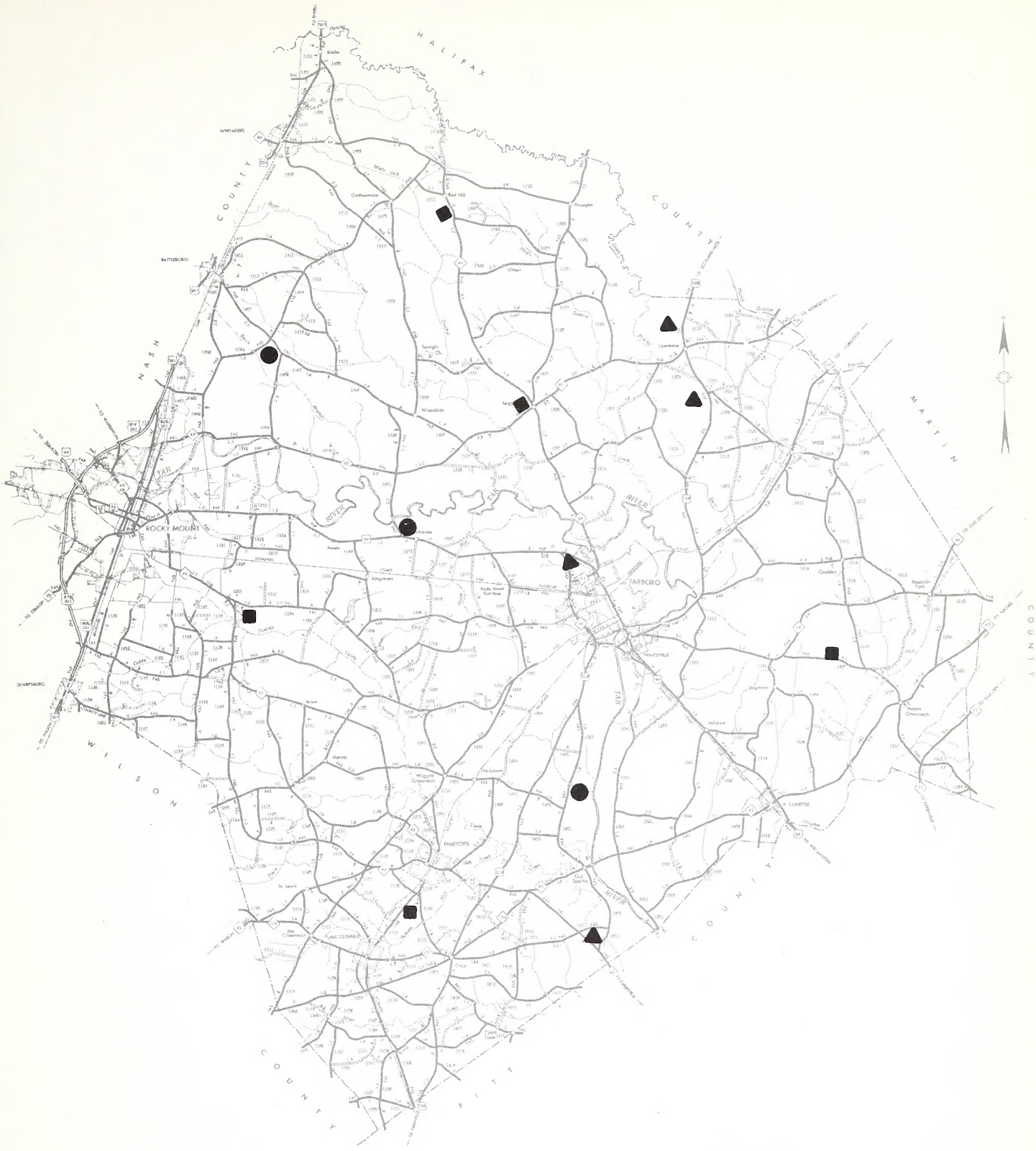
Unfortunately, a lack of recreation areas is one problem which is often ignored or given a low position on the priority list for action. However, the need for increased and improved recreation will become more pressing in the future, while, at the same time, the obstacles to providing adequate recreation will become more pronounced. Thus, steps should be taken now to secure recreation areas, provide facilities, and increase and expand recreational programs throughout the county.

#### Recommendations

- Convert the two landfill sites to be purchased by the county for the sanitary landfill program into county-wide parks (B.O.R.II) when they are completed as landfills. As defined by the N. C. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Area Subclassification System, this should serve "the residents of a subregion comprising either several municipalities, a large nonurban area, or any combination of the two". It should be developed so that "the more extensive passive and active outdoor recreation desires of people for day and weekend use are accommodated. (i.e., camping, picnicking, hiking, nature appreciation). These areas are commonly developed so that 50% of the surface area is developed for extensive recreation use of the land while the remaining 50% of the land is maintained in a natural state." (According to the Sanitary Landfill Plan, each of these sites should be a minimum of 30 acres. However, to develop an adequate county-wide park, one of these sites should be at least 100 acres. The tentatively selected landfill site is 105 acres).
- Expand the school sites and improve the recreation facilities at North Edgecombe, South Edgecombe, West Edgecombe.
- Utilize the 50-50 matching grant of the land and water conservation fund to establish an additional county park of at least 100 acres along the Tar River.



- Encourage (local and state) public agencies, societies, and private landowners to identify, set aside, and manage historic and cultural sites such as Beechwood, Dickens-Lawrence Home, the Bryant-Mabry-Bellamy Home, Bracebridge Hall, Foxhall Place, and Holliman. Also include in these preservation attempts sites of old bridges, churches, taverns and homes which are no longer standing.
- Establish recreation programs at school sites in conjunction with the schools and the county extension service. These programs for school-age children, as well as the elderly and handicapped, should provide both active recreational experiences and crafts.
- Acquaint civic groups and organizations with the inadequacies of recreational facilities in the county through the distribution of this report and other materials, and encourage them to sponsor picnic areas and playgrounds.
- Form a recreation commission with a representative from each of the following communities: Tarboro, Rocky Mount, Whitakers, Battleboro, Speed, Conetoe, Macclesfield, Pinetops, and Princeville. This commission will be responsible for actively encouraging implementation of these plans and developing programs and specific proposals for improving recreation in Edgecombe County.



MAP 4

# EDGECOMBE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

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# PROPOSED RECREATION AREAS

- PARKS
- EXPANSION OF SCHOOL RECREATION FACILITIES
- ▲ HISTORIC PRESERVATION





## PUBLIC SERVICES: SANITARY LANDFILL

A study conducted by the Sanitary Engineering Division of the North Carolina State Board of Health in 1968 found that Edgecombe County was in need of a sanitary landfill program. All of the six land disposal sites were operated as open dumps except for the one located in Rocky Mount. These sites were utilized by private collection firms and municipalities. However, an estimated 25,812 people living in rural areas who had no collection service had no sanitary disposal methods.

The need for a county sanitary landfill program is substantiated further by the results of the Region L Survey below:

4. Are solid waste disposal systems and facilities adequate in your community?      Yes 31%      No 69%

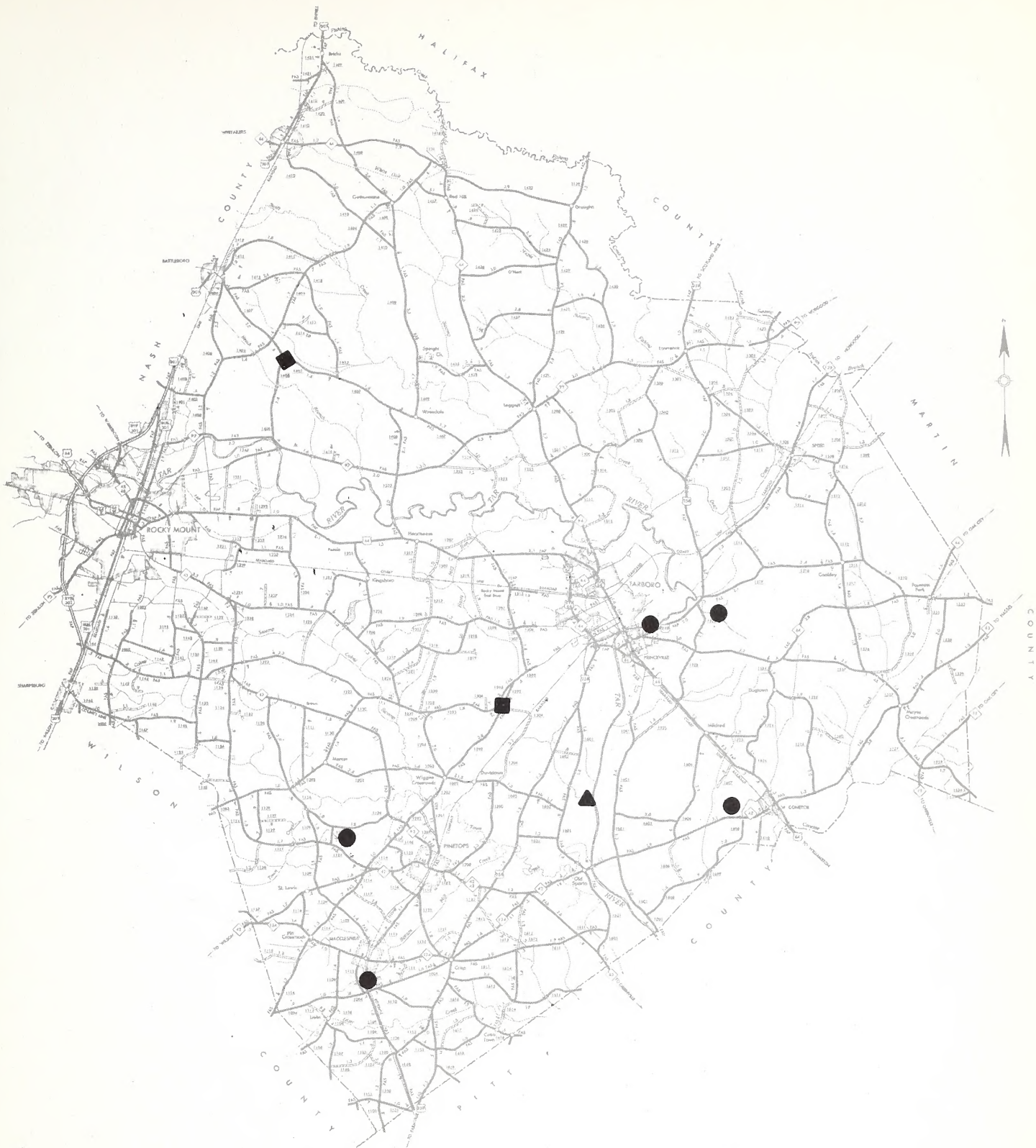
The program proposed by the N. C. State Board of Health calls for two sanitary landfill sites of at least 30 acres each and a container system for unincorporated areas where house-to-house collection is not feasible. One tentative site of 105 acres has been located and a \$75,000 appropriation has been made for initiation of the sanitary landfill program to be supervised by the County Health Department (Map #5).

Total capital investment is estimated at approximately \$250,000 and the total annual operating cost is estimated at \$70,350.

### Recommendations

- Continued efforts should be made to implement the proposed sanitary landfill program as soon as possible.
- The sanitary landfill sites should be designated for recreational use when they are completed.
- Consideration should be given to initiation of a solid waste recycling program sponsored by the County.





MAP 5

# **EDGECOMBE COUNTY** NORTH CAROLINA

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SCALE  
1 INCH = 1 MILE

## **N. C. BOARD OF HEALTH**

- PROPOSED LANDFILLS
- OPEN DUMPS
- ▲ SELECTED SITE





## PUBLIC SERVICES: AIRPORTS

Edgecombe County is served, along with Nash and Wilson Counties, by the Rocky Mount-Wilson Airport located on Highway 97 west of Rocky Mount. It has been in operation since 1964 and is owned by the three counties (Nash, Wilson and Edgecombe), each of which owns 1/7 of the total shares, and two cities (Rocky Mount and Wilson), each of which owns 2/7 of the total shares. Total cost is in excess of \$2 million. The site includes approximately 1,000 acres, plus an additional 300-400 acres in easements. Airport zoning is in effect in Nash County.

The airport provides a 6,000 foot landing strip, a terminal with office and meeting facilities, hangars, aprons for commercial (250' x 400') and private (250' x 400') aircraft, regular and jet fuel, instrument landing and approach lighting systems and high intensity lighting.

Its FAA classification is local, designed for short-range movement in light and small aircraft. It serves private aircraft and one commercial airlines (Piedmont).

Ground transportation to cities within the area is provided by taxi service and rental car service.

Current plans for the Rocky Mount-Wilson Airport include the following:

- Construction of an FAA flight service station building
- Construction of a 6,000 foot taxiway
- Installation of a 4" overlay on the existing runway

When these plans are completed the aircraft will have the capacity to handle all aircraft with the exception of intercontinental jetcraft.

In addition to the Rocky Mount-Wilson airport, plans are currently being developed for construction of a basic utility airport in Tarboro, in accordance with the most recent National Airport Plan. Initial negotiations are presently underway for acquisition of a site. Based on FAA standards

and design criteria, the facility should include a landing strip length of approximately 5,700 feet extendable to 7,200 feet, and a width of 250 feet.

Because of its designation in the National Airport Plan, both federal funds (50%) and state funds (25%) will be available. The remaining costs (25%) are to be financed through local funds.

The following results of the Region L Council of Government survey provide additional information about aviation facilities for the county:

1. Is your area served by a general aviation facility?  
Yes 67% No 33%
2. Does your area have adequate commercial aviation facilities?  
Yes 36% No 64%
3. Do you feel that commercial aviation service is adequate for your area? Yes 33% No 67%

These responses indicate a need for improved aviation facilities in the area. Completion of the proposed plans for the Rocky Mount-Wilson facility plus the construction of a facility at Tarboro should provide adequate air service to Edgecombe County.



## PUBLIC SERVICES: WATER AND SEWER

It is becoming increasingly important to supply adequate water and liquid waste treatment facilities in urban and suburban areas, as well as rural areas. In the past, low density residential development could depend on individual wells and septic tanks to meet its needs. However, with increased population, and more concentrated development, additional facilities are needed.

In July of 1971, the Edgecombe County Commissioners, recognizing the need for improved water and sewer facilities, adopted a comprehensive water and sewer plan for the County. The study proposed detailed plans for water systems for Avalon, Battleboro, Conetoe, Crisp, Lawrence, Leggett, Macclesfield, Old Sparta, Pinetops, Princeville, Rocky Mount, Sharpsburg, Speed, Tarboro, and Whitakers. In addition, the following general recommendations were made:

- that public water systems should be installed or expanded in all municipalities in the county;
- that county as well as town officials should encourage the leaders of those areas indicated in the report to install community water systems and aid them in every possible way including financial assistance;
- that individual homeowners living in areas where there is little hope of a community water system be encouraged by all local health officials and government financing agencies to construct wells that will afford proper protection from sources of pollution;
- that each municipality that has not already done so form a Development Commission, obtain options on potential industrial sites and take advantage of every opportunity to apply for federal and state financial aid in serving these sites with sewer and water;
- that rural areas organize and with the help of the Farmers Home Administration and a qualified engineering firm, form water associations that will serve water to those areas where the density of users makes a system more economically feasible. These systems should eventually link together to form a county-wide water system;
- that the County Commissioners investigate the possibility of forming a County water and sewer authority.

Since the adoption, several communities have taken steps to implement the plans, either through initial construction or through expansion of existing facilities. These include Leggett, Whitakers, Battleboro, Pine-tops, Rocky Mount, Macclesfield, Tarboro, Conetoe and Crisp.

The following responses to the Region L Council of Government survey indicate a need for continued efforts at implementation of the sewer and water plans:

1. Does your community have an adequate raw water source to provide for continued growth? Yes 72% No 28%
2. Does your community have adequate water treatment facilities to handle growth for the next five years? Yes 43% No 57%
3. Does your community have adequate sewer facilities to service growth over the next five years? Yes 20% No 80%

It is recommended that county and local officials encourage the implementation of the adopted plans by municipalities within the county. A county water and sewer authority should be considered for the future to ensure adequate water supply and treatment facilities throughout the county.







